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PAGE 01 KABUL 00719 01 OF 04 030210Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 ECR-12 SS-10 CIC-02
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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
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CONFIDENTIAL: A L SECTION 01 OF 04 KABUL 0719
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PAGE 02 KABUL 00719 01 OF 04 030210Z

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TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINR, SQCM, PROP, MCAP, US, AF, SHUN
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, MAY 2 - MAY 9, 1983

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. CAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO
FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM.

REF: KABUL 0685

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING
THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE DRA REGIME'S APRIL 27 COUP D'ETAT
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WENT OFF WITH A HITCH, THE RESIS-
TANCE MARKED THE DAY, BOTH IN KABUL AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE
COUNTRY, WITH BOMBINGS, ATTACKS, ASSASSINATIONS, POWER CUTS,
AND POSSIBLE MAJOR DAMAGE TO A NATIONAL HIGHWAY. MEANWHILE,
RELEASES OF PRISONERS UNDER THE AMNESTY ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK IS
APPARENTLY TO PROCEED OVER A TWO-MONTH PERIOD. IN THE WAR ITSELF,
SOVIET AND REGIME BOMBARDMENT OF THE SHOMALI AREA CONTINUED
HEAVY, AND THE SITUATION IN KANDAHAR REMAINED UNSATISFACTORY
FROM THE REGIME'S POINT OF VIEW. ALTHOUGH FEW DETAILS ARE
AVAILABLE, IT IS CLEAR THAT FIGHTING IN AND AROUND HERAT CITY
AND IN PAKTIA PROVINCE HAS BEEN HEAVY. END SUMMARY.

3. SOUR 7: AFTER WEEKS OF PREPARATION, THE DRA REGIME WAS ABLE
TO HOLD THE CEREMONIES CONNECTED WITH THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF ITS APRIL 27, 1978 (SOUR 7 IN THE AFGHAN CALENDAR)
COUP D'ETAT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION. DELEGATIONS FROM TEN
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PAGE 03

KABUL 00719 01 OF 04 030210Z

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES PLUS FRANCE, INDIA, IRAQ, JAPAN AND THE PLO
ATTENDED JOINT SESSIONS OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, REVOLU-
TIONARY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT; A BANQUET HOSTED
THAT EVENING BY PRESIDENT KARMAL, AND VARIOUS SPORTING AND
CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN ADDITION TO THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN
PARADE ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 27. THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS
WERE GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT BY THE REGIME, INCLUDING
AUDIENCES WITH PRESIDENT KARMAL. THE SOVIET DELEGATE, UZBEK
PARTY CHIEF SHARAF RASHIDOV, WHO STOOD ON THE FRONT ROW OF THE
TRIBUNAL AT THE PARADE WITH THE AFGHAN POLITBURE, WAS CLEARLY
FIRST AMONG EQUALS. SHANGRI DZAL SHERMA, THE INDIAN PARLIA-

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MENTARIAN WHO HEADED HIS COUNTRY'S CONTINGENT, WAS ALSO PROMINENTLY FEATURED, APPARENTLY IN CONTINUING RECOGNITION OF INDIA'S HELPFUL ROLE AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. THE STAR OF THE APRIL 27 PARADE WAS POLITSBORO ALTERNATE MEMBER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, COLONEL GENERAL ABDUL QADER, WHO DELIVERED A SPEECH FILLED WITH VENCH AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT REAGAN. AT TWO HOURS, THE PARADE WAS SHORTER THAN LAST YEAR'S, BUT THE FLOATS OF THE VARIOUS STATE ENTERPRISES WERE MORE ELABORATE THAN LAST YEAR'S VERSIONS. THE LARGE CROWD OF MARCHERS APPEARED TO BE ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING WEATHER AND DID NOT PRESENT THE GLUM APPEARANCE OF THOSE WHICH ARE SUMMONED PERIODICALLY TO DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF OUR EMBASSY.

4. COUNTER CELEBRATIONS: ALTHOUGH THEY DID LITTLE TO DISTURB THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE SOUR 7 CELEBRATIONS, THE MUJAHIDEEN WERE ACTIVE ON THE MARGINS OF THE OBSERVANCES. THEIR ATTACKS ON THE LINES SUPPLYING KABUL WITH ELECTRIC POWER AT LEAST PREVENTED A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE CITY'S POPULACE FROM FOLLOWING THE PROCEEDINGS ON TELEVISION OR RADIO. BEGINNING ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 25, A HALF DOZEN OR SO PYLONS SUPPORTING TRANSMISSION LINES FROM THE THREE HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITIES TO THE EAST WERE DESTROYED WITH THE RESULT THAT BY APRIL 27, MOST OF THE CITY WAS

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PAGE 01 KASUL 00719 03 OF 04 030221Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 KABUL 0719

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PAGE 02 KASUL 00719 03 OF 04 030221Z

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. OAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM.

8. THE KABUL-JALALABAD ROAD: FOR REASONS THAT ARE NOT YET CLEAR, THE KABUL-JALALABAD ROAD HAS BEEN CUT FOR A LONGER PERIOD THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. ACCORDING TO ALL ACCOUNTS, THE RESULT OF WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT A SECTION OF THE ROAD WAS DESTROYED, PROBABLY BY FLOODING, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 25, BUT THE REASONS GIVEN FOR THE DAMAGE VARY WIDELY. ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT HAS IT THAT THE UNSEASONABLY HEAVY RAINS THAT OCCURRED IN LATE APRIL CAUSED THE ALREADY SWOLLEN KABUL RIVER **TO FLOOD AND THAT RAIN-CAUSED AVALANCHES ALSO HELPED TO DESTROY** THE SURFACE AND UNDERPINNINGS OF THE HIGHWAY. AMONG KABUL CITIZENRY, HOWEVER, A MUCH MORE POPULAR VERSION IS THAT THE BLOCKAGE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY RESISTANCE LAND MINES PLANTED NEAR THE MAHIPAR HYDROELECTRIC STATION. WHEN EXPLODED, THE MINES ARE SAID TO HAVE BLOCKED THE RIVER, AND PERHAPS A NEARBY TUNNEL, CAUSING A FLOOD WHICH WASHED OUT A SECTION OF THE ROAD. WHATEVER ITS CAUSE, THE BLOCKAGE ON THE HIGHWAY HAS ALREADY DRAMATICALLY REDUCED THE AVAILABILITY OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN THE KABUL MARKET, AND PRICES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES HAVE RISEN SEVERAL FOLD. THE INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES HOW DEPENDENT KABUL IS ON ITS ROAD LINK TO THE AGRICULTURALLY RICH NANGARHAR PROVINCE AND, ABOVE ALL, ON PAKISTAN.

9. PRISONER RELEASE: THE REGIME'S MUCH-PUBLICIZED AMNESTY FOR CERTAIN OF ITS 100,000 PRISONERS HAS YET TO HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT HERE IN KABUL. ONE SOURCE REPORTED SEEING A SUBSTANTIAL, BUT UNCOUNTABLE, NUMBER OF DETAINEES EMERGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTRY IN THE CENTER OF TOWN ON APRIL 25. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PRISONERS ARE HELD AS GUESTS OF THE SECRET POLICE. ON THE OTHER HAND, A
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PAGE 03 KABUL 00719 03 OF 04 030221Z

SECOND SOURCE WHO HAD HOPED FOR THE RELEASE OF A CLOSE RELATIVE AND WHO SPENT HIS APRIL 27 HOLIDAY ON A FRUITLESS VIGIL OUTSIDE THE INFAMOUS POL-E-CHARKHI PRISON SAID THAT FEW PEOPLE EMERGED FROM THAT FACILITY. THE SOURCE WAS TOLD BY A SECURITY OFFICIAL THAT RELEASES WOULD TAKE PLACE GRADUALLY OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

10. SOUR 7 IN GHAZNI AND MAZAR-E-SHARIF: TRAVELLERS FROM THE GHAZNI, 150 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KABUL, AND FROM THE NORTHERN CITY OF MAZAR-E-SHARIF REPORT THAT THE RESISTANCE IN THOSE TOWNS CONDUCTED MAJOR ATTACKS ON THE EVE OF THE APRIL 27 CELEBRATIONS.

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IN GHAZNI, SECURITY FORCES HAD RETURNED FROM GIYAKH, THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF HAZARA RESISTANCE LEADER SAYYED JAGLAN, AFTER WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SOTTL E HAZARA FORCES UP IN THEIR LAIR 15 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE CITY. THE MUJAHIDEEN FOLLOWED THE TROOPS BACK TO TOWN AND ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 26 LAUNCHED ATTACKS WITH HEAVY WEAPONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. DAMAGE TO CIVILIAN PROPERTY WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE. FIRING WAS ALSO HEAVY IN MAZAR-E-SHARIF WHERE RESISTANCE FORCES WERE DENYING GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT A MAJOR JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI RESISTANCE LEADER, ABDUL QUDUS, HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE LATE MARCH OFFENSIVE BY REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES.

11. THE SHOMALI: REGIME BOMBARDMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SHOMALI HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE AND DEVASTATING IN THE PAST WEEK. WITHIN THE PAST TWO TO FOUR DAYS, THE VILLAGES OF KARIZ-E-MIR, SHAKARDARA AND GULDARA 20-30 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KABUL AND 10 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE MAIN HIGHWAY LEADING NORTH TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE EXTENSIVELY BOMBARDED BOTH FROM THE AIR AND

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00719 04 OF 04 030256Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIC-02
CIAE-00 EA-10 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 KABUL 0719
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PAGE 02 KABUL 00719 04 OF 04 030256Z

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAS - MRS. OAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM.

BY REGIME ARTILLERY FIRING FROM THE HIGHWAY. THE SOUND AND FLASHES OF ARTILLERY WERE PLAINLY VISIBLE FROM KABUL ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 29. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE REPORTS, THE REGIME, PROBABLY IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS, FOLLOWED UP ON THE BOMBARDMENTS BY LANDING TROOPS FROM HELICOPTERS IN THE AREA OF THE VILLAGES **TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY RESISTANCE GROUPS OPERATING THERE. ALSO,** ON OR ABOUT APRIL 30, THE TOWN OF ESTALEP 40 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KABUL WAS BOMBARDED, AND SOVIET FORCES WERE REPORTEDLY ENGAGED IN A MAJOR OPERATION ON THE HIGHWAY AT QARASAGH 40 KILOMETERS FROM THE CAPITAL.

12. KANDAHAR: TRAVELLERS FROM THE SOUTHERN CITY OF KANDAHAR HAVE GIVEN US AN UPDATE ON CONDITIONS THERE AS OF MID-APRIL. THE INTENSE CONSCRIPTION DRIVE BEGUN IN MARCH HAS NOW ENDED WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S MILITARY RECRUITMENT CHIEF, MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMMAD NADER DEGHAN, FOR HELMAND PROVINCE TO THE EAST. DEGHAN WILL REPORTEDLY CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN, WHICH NETTED A LARGE BUT UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF RECRUITS FROM KANDAHAR, IN THE HELMAND PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF LASHKARGAH.

13. MEANWHILE, UNSETTLED CONDITIONS PERSIST IN KANDAHAR WHERE A MILITARY POST IN THE HANZEL BAGH AREA OF THE CITY WAS SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED IN THE FIRST PART OF APRIL. IN ORDER TO AVOID RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS IMMEDIATELY TO THE EAST OF KANDAHAR, SOVIET CONVOYS APPROACHING THE CITY CONTINUE TO LEAVE THE MAIN ROAD AT KESHK-E-NAKHOD 50 KILOMETERS EAST OF TOWN TO TAKE A SOUTHERLY DETOUR ACROSS A FLAT PLAIN WHERE CONCEALMENT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN IS MORE DIFFICULT. DESPITE THESE PRECAUTIONS, A
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PAGE 03 KABUL 00719 04 OF 04 030256Z

COLUMN OF PETROLEUM TANKERS HAD BEEN STUCK IN KESHK-E-NAKHOD FOR FIFTEEN DAYS AS OF APRIL 19.

14. REGIME AND SOVIET CONVOYS MOVED OUT OF KANDAHAR TO THE NORTH AND EAST IN MID-APRIL. ONE HEADED FOR THE DISTRICT OF KHAKRAIZ 35 KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH IN AN EFFORT TO RETAKE THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS FROM THE RESISTANCE. HALF OF THIS FORCE HAD RETURNED TO KANDAHAR AS OF APRIL 20, AND THE FATE OF THE REMAINDER WAS NOT KNOWN. THE SECOND COLUMN MOVED ON GIRISHK 100 KILOMETERS EAST OF KANDAHAR. ITS FATE IS NOT YET KNOWN.

15. HERAT AND PAKTIA: FRAGMENTARY REPORTING FROM THE CITY OF
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HERAT AND THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF PAKTIA INDICATES THAT FIGHTING IN BOTH PLACES IS HEAVY. SINCE THE MIDDLE OF APRIL, THE BOMBING OF HERAT HAS BEEN EXPANDED FROM THE NORTHWESTERN SUBURBS *TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE NORTHERN PART OF TOWN. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES* HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVE, AND THE FLIGHT OF THE POPULATION FROM THE AFFECTED AREAS CONTINUES. TROOPS OF THE 17TH DIVISION, WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO KANDAHAR EARLIER IN THE SPRING, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN RECALLED TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN HERAT TO HELP DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. AS TO PAKTIA, A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT ON APRIL 28, ONE OR MORE AIRCRAFT LANDED AT KABUL AIRPORT BRINGING MORE THAN 100 GRAVELY WOUNDED REGIME SOLDIERS FROM AN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE. MANY OF THE MEN HAD DIED DURING THE JOURNEY AND OTHERS EXPIRED ON THEIR WAY TO HOSPITAL. THIS IS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WOUNDED MEN WE CAN RECALL HAVING BEEN BROUGHT TO KABUL ON A SINGLE MISSION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

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